

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

February 7, 1997

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

ZOOLOGY FILM STARS

In November 1996 the documentary film, "Understanding Biodiversity: The Field Museum in Venezuela," was shown at the International Environmental Film Festival held in Paris, France. The film features the field research of Associate Curator **Barry Chernoff** (Zoology, Fishes) and former curator **Scott Lanyon** (Zoology, Birds). The film also has aired on public television and was awarded a "Silver Apple" by the National Educational Media Network in 1996, and a second place AAM MUSE Award in 1995.

WELCOME ANNA GRAYBEAL!

Staff of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles welcome **Anna Graybeal**, our new assistant curator, who arrived on Monday, February 3, 1997. Anna has just come from the University of Texas at Austin, where she had a post-doctoral fellowship. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. Anna's main interests are in evolutionary studies of frogs in general and toads in particular. She will be a frequent user of both the molecular genetics laboratory and our collection of preserved amphibians.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday February 4, 1997 was delivered by **William**

Ballard, Assistant Curator, Insects, Department of Zoology, Field Museum. Bill addressed the question of how data sets derived from different sources such as morphology and molecules should be analyzed. He reviewed the three competing approaches, total evidence, taxonomic congruence, and conditional data combination, and then introduced his innovative approach, compatible evidence. He used each of the four procedures to analyze data sets for staphylinid beetles. Bill concluded the compatible evidence approach offers the greatest possibility to identify a well corroborated tree as well as to identify specific conflicting nodes which may warrant further investigation.

Congratulations

TO SPECIAL EVENTS! The Field Museum was one of three nominees for an award in "Achievements in Logistics," a competition held by *Special Events Magazine*. The description of the nomination read, "Unusual protocol requirements, set-up and take-down restraints, intense media interest, high-level security concerns and substantial parking needs were among the myriad challenges faced by The Field Museum of Chicago when it hosted the gala event for Princess Diana." Although the award went to ESPN X Games in Providence, Rhode Island (which closed down four main streets in the city's highest traffic areas for nine days), we are proud of our Special Events team for their extraordinary work year-round. We congratulate them on their nomination, an honor itself.

HOSTING A DIGNITARY? NEED A FLAG? Security has domestic and foreign flags of various sizes. Some are large outside flags for our flag poles and some are smaller. Contact the Security Equipment office (x239) for a list of flags, their sizes and suitability for flag pole or indoor use. All flagpole use must conform to Museum policy, a copy of which may be obtained from **Carolyn Klyce** (x642).

Staff has their say on Relic

I was disappointed to see that the producers opted to re-shoot the ending rather than use the

one originally shot. In the first version, a crack team of Museum volunteers (from both behind-the-scenes and Education programs) band together with selfless courage and rescue all the donors and dignitaries, save the detective just as he's about to have his brain sucked out, and subdue the monster by injecting it with a rapidly-mutating strain of DNA that turns it back into a curator (although not all the characters view this as an improvement) -- after which the Penelope Ann Miller character asks the Museum-wide Volunteer Coordinator (Johnny Depp in a cameo appearance) out for a drink. OK, I made up that last part. -- **Mark Alvey**

WELCOME! Staff Members who started in January

Jennifer Crodian	Botany	MS-Science III	721
Peter DeRiemer	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator	329
Dianne Draeger	Anthropology	Intern	443
Michele Eck (welcome back!)	Botany	MS-Science III	722
Jean Fraleigh	Academic Affairs	Symposium Coordinator	559
Cathy Geraghty	ECP	Paogram Manager	598
Eric Lindveit	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator	329
Chris Molzahn	ECP	Program Coordinator	426
Mary Ellen Munley	Education	Director of Education	246
Sophia Twichell (welcome back!)	Academic Affairs	Sponsored Programs Coord	877
Ray Van Hook	Security	Asst Security Manager	563
John Zehren	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator	329

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW POSITION!

Gene Dillengurg	Geology	Administrative Assistant	293
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GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK... Staff Members who left in January

Kevin Davis	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
Julian Jackson	Accounting	Accountant
Suzanne Murphy	Inst Adv	Campaign Secretary
Russ Northrup	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator